

LISTENING.

RUSSIAN LOVE

Nicopolis is a small town in the south-east of Russia, where the Caucasian blood rages like the Russian, and produces very many remarkably fine specimens of female beauty. Among the most beautiful of the beauties of Nicopolis was Ulyana, the only daughter of a wealthy landowner, who had been married at the harvest-time to add to the family, by engaging "people from Russia" (they say, meaning people from the interior) to do at this season of the year great remercement labour in the more cultivated and healthier districts of the South.

One of these Nicopolis girls, a beautiful, intelligent young fellow, attracted special attention. He seemed completely indifferent with regard to his marriage, and was as gay as the best of spirits. Ulyana soon became a willing listener when he was practising his art, and Pityaifskiy was not inconsiderable a charmer of female beauty, so much inclined to married parties in the society. It was not the liking for each other ripe for an affair of the heart, and became the object of general remark. Nor did it escape Pityaifskiy a temptation to conceal what he felt for each other, and Pityaifskiy went boldly to the father of his lady-love, and begged for his blessing. But the stern and stern prompter of the father, not going to give his daughter to a strolling libertine, he said more of no avail; his father was inflexible; and, in order to "put other thoughts in his head," he compelled her to a betrothal with a wealthy townsmen of the city. All were content at Ulyana; her thoughts were with Pityaifskiy, who gave her good cause of uneasiness and grief, but he was not to be deterred. He had ceased to work, and now spent his time in either one pot-house or another. He went to assuage his grief, but not long did he soon took an interest in the Russian to do—and the Russian did not lessen his grief. He therefore swore the pot-house, and determined to, away, where, concealed and forgotten, he would end his unhappy life. In this "romantic frame of mind he bethought himself of a very stern, and determined as soon as possible to leave the town, and to go to the capital. With the object in view, he one evening soon after dark went to the principal bazaar of the town and tried one door after another until he found one he could force. He entered the well-shield shop, took what was to be found in the till, and closed the door. The shopkeeper, who made a bundle of the goods, and again looked the burglar, or if no one came to arrest the burglar, he was still unbothered, he made a brief visit in the shop. This was soon seen by the people and came and seized the supposed robber. On being taken to the police, he declared his love, owing to his disappointment, that this, and this only, was his object in breaking into the shop. The jurymen were unanimous in rendering a verdict of acquittal, which was received by loud applause on the part of the people. The burglar was then compelled to leave. The father was so compelled to leave his neighbour, and consented to her union with the romantic Pityaifskiy. *—From the Russian*

In the description of the marriage and scenes that follow Mr. Swinburne all

nearby two oaks. Notwithstanding their enormous weight and enormous sweep of hands, their regularity is marvellous. Every day the clock reports its progress to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich by electricity. The clock is a masterpiece of modern engineering, which is every minute regulated by actual observation of the stars during the night. Any error in the movements of the great hands at Westminster is thus detected, and is telegraphed back to the errors are carefully registered, and, according to the Astronomer Royal, the clock never varies by more than one second in a year. The without the striking part of the mechanism occupies twenty minutes. Ocas move in the dark stone staircase, and I am permitted to see them, the cold stars shimmering through the open machinery, the tiny twinkling up from masses of iron and of the tread of the wheels and rumbling down the silent monsters that never give a sound. I am told that the clock is made in the centre is Big Ben, nine feet in diameter, eight inches and three-quarters thick, and between fifteen and sixteen tons in weight. The hammer that strikes is a cast-iron rod, nearly seven feet long, and around the sullen giant's head, the chiming, one of them weighs seventy-eight hundredweight, another three and a half hundredweight, a third twenty-six hundredweight, and a fourth twenty-one hundredweight, and some of them, I am told, are so noisy that they often oblige their owner to shout himself booming out to be heard. It is Big Ben. In striking the quarter past one, hour, and the first stroke is heard within two seconds of Greenwich mean time, and is expected to begin again within one second of true time, and to continue to do this, night and day, for the next forty-four years before the hour. This part goes only four days without striking. The operation is performed twice a week, and is nearly a day's work. The shafts are about a ton and a half in weight in which they move up and down. It is a hundred and seventy feet long, and upwards of six hundredweight, measuring fourteen feet five inches in diameter. A world and ghastly place is this bell-ringing house, impenetrable shadows, and all vague lights, the moaning and sobbing of the wind and the rattling and clanging of the shafts, and of its pendulum swinging out on to the stamp, and its slender legs down through the gloom and the smoke into the world. I seem to be in the hum of the busy multitude on a crowded and embayed by the distances. The eye can reach, my ear can hear, but the mind cannot follow. The shafts are silent, and through it all the river rolls, and silent, with here and there long, long pendants of fire quivering down the bridge and boat. Up now immediately, a dim, mysterious space immediately below Big Ben. The spiral shafts of the clock, and the half-ton wheels from this another coil round into the centre of the air void. Occasionally, I may for a my quiet alone, and I step faintly clutching the thin iron railings. I cannot see, I gain the centre of the

It is the chimes going for ten o'clock, and in

1048 Hongkong, 1st September, 1874.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

MARINE RISKS.

Polices at current rates, payable either in London, or at the principal ports of India, or at the place of destination.

A Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE AND ONE-THIRD PER CENT. will be allowed on all LOCS RISKS.

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Polices granted on First-class Buildings at an extent of \$20,000.

A sum of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY per cent. (200) upon the current local rate will be allowed on all premium charged for insurance; such amount being deducted at the time of the issue of policy.

RUSSELL & CO.
Agents.
17 1/2 Hongkong, 1st January, 1874.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES at Our Rates.

MELCHIES & CO.
Agents, Royal Insurance Company.
17780 Hongkong, 28th October, 1874.

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17780 Hongkong, 1st May, 1874.

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Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rate of Premium current at above-mentioned Port.

No charge for Policy fees.

JAS. B. COUGHTRY.
Secretary.
Hongkong, 1st November, 1871. [initials]

NOTICE.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE following rates will be charged in full for **SHORT PERIOD INSURANCES**, viz. Not exceeding 3 months. 1 do. 1/2
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Above 6 months and not exceeding 9 months. 1 do. 1/2

EDWARD NORTON & CO.
Agents the Queen Insurance Company.
17 3/4 Hongkong, 2nd January, 1874.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE CO
PANY OF MANCHESTER AND

FOREIGN MESS.	
Name.	Nation.
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